

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 15550 250931Z

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 H-02 SSO-00 PRS-01 /015 W

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O 250815Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9142

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 15550

FOR SCA AND NEA/INS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC CDES

SUBJECT: REPORTED DEATH OF 3 AMCITS IN MOUNTAIN ACCIDENT

1. DEATH OF THREE AMERICAN CITIZENS ATTEMPTING CLIMB MT. DUNAGIRI ON NORTHERN INDIAN BORDER HAS BEEN REPORTED BY TRAVEL AGENT AND AS YET UNCONFIRMED BY POLICE AUTHORITIES AS TELEPHONE LINES TO THIS REMOTE AREA PRESENTLY NOT FUNCTIONING. TRAVEL AGENT HOWEVER STATES HIS INFORMATION IS ABSOLUTELY CORRECT.

2. THOSE REPORTED DEAD INCLUDE: GRAHAM STEPHENSON, LEADER OF CLIMBING GROUP, ADDRESS LISTED AS 11661 SAN VINCENTE BOULEVARD, LOS ANGELES, 90049, OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBER 213-826-5591; JOHN BARUCH, 546 AMALFI DRIVE, PACIFIC PALISADES, CALIF.; ARKEL ERB, 18337 WAKECREST DRIVE, MALIBU, CALIFORNIA, 90265.

3. ERB'S WIFE, MRS. RUTH ERB, ACCOMPANIED GROUP AND APPARENTLY SURVIVED THE ACCIDENT. SHE IS EXPECTED IN NEW DELHI EVENING OF OCTOBER 25. CONOFF WILL CONTACT AND RELAY ANY FURTHER DETAILS.

4. WE ARE ALSO INFORMED THAT A MEXICAN CITIZEN, BENJAMIN CASASOLA OF TIJUANA PERISHED ON THE MOUNTAIN. MEXICAN EMBASSY HAS BEEN CONTACTED. THEY HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION.

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5. DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED ATTEMPT LOCATE NOK OF STEPHENSON

AND BARUCH, AND UPON OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF DEATHS, SO
INFORM RELATIVES.

6. IN VIEW PRESS INTEREST IN RECENT AMCIT DEATH ON NEARBY
MOUNTAIN (NEW DELHI 13806,NANDA DEVI UNOELD ON THE MOUNTAIN
SHE WAS NAMED FOR) PRELIMINARY REPORT NEW ACCIDENT BEING FORWARDED
FOR DEPARTMENT'S REFERENCE IF REQUIRED.SAXBE

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